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ABSTRACT

During fiscal year 1995, more than $29 million was spent on adult education and literacy programming in Illinois, with federal, state, and public aid accounting for 36%, 30%, and 34% respectively of all funds. Of those funds, 77% were spent on direct instruction. The 107 adult education/literacy programs offered in Illinois' 4 planning regions in 1995 provided instruction in the following areas: adult basic education; literacy; and adult secondary education (including General Educational Development test preparation, high school credit courses, vocational training for entry-level employment, life-coping skills, parenting skills, citizenship, English as a second language, and classes to prepare public assistance recipients for employment). The state's 105 administrative agencies for the provision of adult education/literacy provided a total of 830,386 units of instruction to 114,230 students (of whom 6% were Asian, 21% were Black, 37% were Hispanic, and 35% were white) at over 600 sites. Recommendations to improve Illinois' adult education/literacy services included the following: work with state-level stakeholders to craft legislation providing a stable, equitable, performance-based base of funding for providers; foster partnerships to develop technology resources, training/professional development, delivery strategies, and evaluation activities; and make education professionals and policymakers an integral part of strategic planning/implementation efforts. (MN)

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Illinois State Board of Education

Center for Business, Community and Family Partnerships

Illinois Adult Education and Literacy

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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ANNUAL REPORT 1995

CE 073049

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WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: THE CHALLENGE AND THE VISION

VISION STATEMENT

As we approach the 21st century, there is broad-based agreement that the education we provide for our children will determine America's future role in the community of nations, the character of our society, and the quality of our individual lives. Thus, education has become the most important responsibility of our nation and our state, with an imperative for bold new directions and renewed commitments.

To meet the global challenges this responsibility presents, the State of Illinois will provide the leadership necessary to guarantee access to a system of high-quality public education. This system will develop in all students the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that will enable all residents to lead productive and fulfilling lives in a complex and changing society. All students will be provided appropriate and adequate opportunities to learn to:

- communicate with words, numbers,visual images, symbols and sounds;
- think analytically and creatively, and be able to solve problems to meet personal, social and academic needs;
- develop physical and emotional well-being;
- contribute as citizens in local, state, national and global communities;
- work independently and cooperatively in groups;
- understand and appreciate the diversity of our world and the interdependence of its peoples;
- contribute to the economic well-being of society; and
- continue to learn throughout their lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the State Board of Education is to enable all Illinois students to become confident, self-sufficient and productive citizens. To this end, the Board establishes policies that systematically support an everchanging, lifelong learning process. Furthermore, it acts as an advocate, provider, and broker of community, family and state resources and services that ensure the accomplishment of the State's Goals for Learning.

ILLINOIS GOALS

1. Each Illinois public school student will exhibit mastery of the learner outcomes defined in the State Goals for Learning, demonstrate the ability to solve problems and perform tasks requiring higher-order thinking skills, and be prepared to succeed in our society and the workforce. All people of Illinois will be literate, life-long learners who are knowledgeable about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and able to contribute to the economic and social well-being of our society.

2. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which are safe and free of violence and drugs. Such schools will provide an environment which is conducive to learning and promotes respect among all students and staff.

3. All Illinois public school students will be served by an education delivery system which focuses on student outcomes; promotes maximum flexibility for shared decision making at the local level; and has an accountability process which includes rewards, interventions and assistance for schools.

4. All Illinois public school students will have access to schools and classrooms with highly qualified and effective professionals who ensure that students achieve high levels of learning.

5. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which effectively use technology as a resource to support student learning and improve operational efficiency.

6. All Illinois public school students will attend schools which actively develop the support, involvement and commitment of parents and their community through the establishment of partnerships and/or linkages to ensure the success of all students.

7. Every Illinois public school student will attend a school that is supported by an adequate, equitable, stable and predictable system of finance.

8. Each child in Illinois will receive the support services necessary to enter the public school system ready to learn and progress successfully through school. The public school system will serve as a leader in collaborative efforts among private and public agencies so that comprehensive and coordinated health, human and social services reach children and their families.

Developed by citizens of Illinois through a process supported by the Governor, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Business Roundtable. Adopted as a centerpiece for school improvement efforts, revised February 1996. Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.

The Purpose of ADULT EDUCATION and LITERACY

Adult education and literacy programs funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) serve adults ages 16 years and older who have less than a high school education and are no longer enrolled in school. These programs provide opportunities to acquire the skills necessary to function more effectively in society and the workplace of the 21st century. Through these programs a student may accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- **Acquire the basic reading, writing, and math skills necessary to obtain or advance in a job;**
- **Meet entrance requirements for vocational training programs;**
- **Pass the General Educational Development (GED) examination, a nationally recognized test for a certificate of high school equivalency;**
- **Attain high-level employment skills;**
- **Obtain the skills needed to become a better parent;**
- **Acquire the skills needed to be a functional, contributing member of society and a wiser consumer;**
- **Learn English as Second Language (ESL) and citizenship skills;**
- **Earn high school credit toward a high school diploma;**
- **Obtain an alternative high school diploma.**

The Illinois Adult Education and Literacy Program operates under provisions of the Illinois School Code and the Federal Adult Education Act.

Services are provided free or at minimal cost to students who qualify under existing laws. The rationale for this policy is that the adults who need basic education the most are the ones who can afford it the least.

In compliance with provisions of the School Code, an area plan must be submitted by an Area Planning Council to ISBE on or before March 1 of each year. Any potential provider of adult education and literacy services (e.g., public school, community college, educational service region, public or private nonprofit organization, community-based organization, correctional education agency, or post-secondary education institution) must be a member of the Area Planning Council in its area.

Across Illinois, these 41 councils plan for the effective development and coordination of educational programs. In many parts of the state, the Area Planning Council is active in the overall coordination of total employment and training programs. If ISBE approves the area plan, all providers listed in the plan may submit an application for funding from ISBE.

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State Savings through Public Assistance Reductions

Under an interagency agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Aid, ISBE provides special recruitment, retention and adult education services to students who receive public assistance. These are primarily Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients. During FY95, 15,226 public assistance students attended adult education classes meeting the minimum requirement of hours to be claimed for reimbursement. Of these students, 2,927 (19.2%) increased their earnings enough to result in their monthly cash grant being reduced or cancelled altogether. Illinois realized annual welfare savings estimated at $20.3 million in direct cash assistance. This amounts to a savings of $2.06 for every $1.00 expended on the program. Total savings will increase in future years due to reductions in medical assistance costs to the State. In addition, the increased incomes of these former participants will result in greater tax revenue collection.

State Reimbursement $$$

There are three determinants for reimbursement: (1) the formula mandated in the School Code for the maximum reimbursement per unit of instruction (defined as 15 hours of direct instruction), (2) the approved budget, and (3) actual costs. A district may claim up to its total approved budget if actual expenditures are incurred and student hours are sufficient to generate that amount according to the formula.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, the formula provided the following:

- Adult Basic Education (ABE) (0-8.9 reading level) - $47.72 per unit of instruction,
- Adult Secondary Education (ASE) (9.0-12.0 reading level) - $42.95 per unit of instruction (ASE is reimbursed at 90% of ABE rate),
- English as a Second Language (ESL) - $47.72 per unit of instruction
- Vocational skills training - $59.65 per unit of instruction.

The formula for community colleges is similar, except that colleges must deduct the state apportionment for ABE/ASE that they receive through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). For FY95 that rate was $14.77 per unit of instruction.

Adult education instructional programs receive funding from ISBE through the application and budget approval process. Each application is evaluated by a team of staff members from ISBE, ICCB, and Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA). Funds are awarded based on the following criteria:

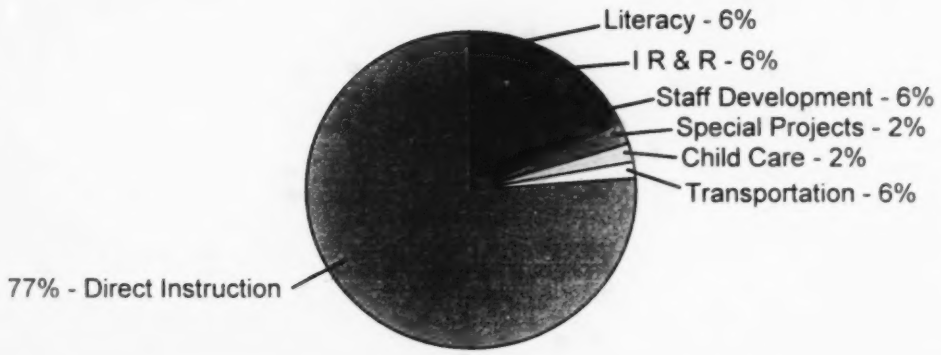
- service to target populations;
- quantifiable need in the service area;
- access to a diversity of services;
- use of effective and diverse instructional techniques;
- provision of supportive services;
- coordination with other funding sources and service providers;

Allocated Funds for FY95, by source

FUND TYPE	$ AMOUNT
Federal	10,600,000
State GRF	7,027,200
Public Assistance	9,818,830
State Match	1,659,900
TOTAL	$29,105,930

Fiscal Year 1995 Funding Sources

Fiscal Year 1995 Funding by Purpose (All Funds)



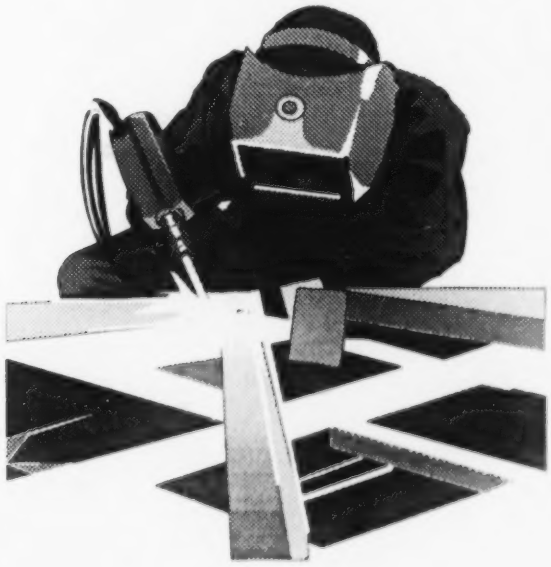
Summary of Needs and Programs

Adult education and literacy programs provide instruction in the following areas: ABE, literacy, and ASE (including GED exam preparation, high school credit courses, and vocational training for entry-level employment). Other areas covered are life-coping skills, parenting skills, citizenship training for immigrants, ESL, job-seeking skills, and classes for public assistance recipients to prepare them for employment.

In January,1994, the State Board of Education received the results of the Illinois Adult Literacy Survey. Among the report's most startling aspects were data indicating that 44% of the Illinois population above age 16 was functioning at a level too low to operate effectively in today's workplace. The Board responded by passing a resolution directing the State Superintendent of Education to form the State Adult Literacy Committee. The committee was charged with examining the survey's findings and recommending improvements to the ISBE adult education and literacy delivery system. The committee's 28 members represented elementary/secondary education, adult education instructors, private business and industry, public agencies, labor, adult education students, and ISBE board members.

To focus its work, the committee decided to examine the following five critical aspects of the system for educating adults:

1. work-based education
2. curriculum and instruction
3. staff development and program improvement
4. family education
5. technology



Providers by Region

Region 1	Director
Albany Park Community Center	Mr. Frank Albanese
Arlington Heights School District #214	Mr. Richard V. Chierico
Austin Career Education Center	Colette Jolie RSM
City Colleges of Chicago	Ms. Dorothy McMurtry
College of Lake County	Ms. Bo Morton
Evanston Township High School	Ms. Goldie Boldridge-Brown
Harper, William Rainey College #512	Dr. Patricia Mulcrone
Highland Park-Deerfield High School #113	Mr. Fred Tandy, Acting Director
Institute for Latino Progress	Ms. Maria T. Ayala
Jobs for Youth	Dr. John D. Connelly
Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization	Ms. Karen Bozeman-Gross
Lake Forest High School #115	Dr. David Strain
LaSalle Street C.Y.C.L.E.	Mr. Terry Rutues
Literacy Chicago	Ms. Myra Johnson
Midwest Women's Center	Ms. Julia Kruse
Moraine Valley Community College #524	Mr. Philip Bobich
Morton College District #201	Dr. Phyliss Walden
Morton, J. Sterling High School #201	Ms. Margaret Trybus
Mundelein Consolidated High School	Ms. Lynn Evans
Neighborhood Institute	Ms. Theresa Adams
Oakton Community College	Ms. Barbara Rizzo
Pace Institute/Safer Foundation	Mr. Ben Greer
Palatine Township High School District #211	Mr. James Henry
Polish Welfare Association	Ms. Joanna Borowiec
Prairie State College	Ms. Joan Simon
Prologue Learning Center	Ms. Nancy Jackson
Ser /Jobs for Progress	Ms. Dawn Erickson
South Area Literacy Council	Ms. Elaine Krajci
South Suburban College	Dr. Gloria Taylor
Spanish Coalition	Ms. Kathleen Petefish
Sullivan House	Ms. Meryl Domina
Travelers and Immigrants Aid	Ms. Aliza Becker
Triton College	Ms. Emelia Yosick
Warren Township High School	Mr. Peter Seagard

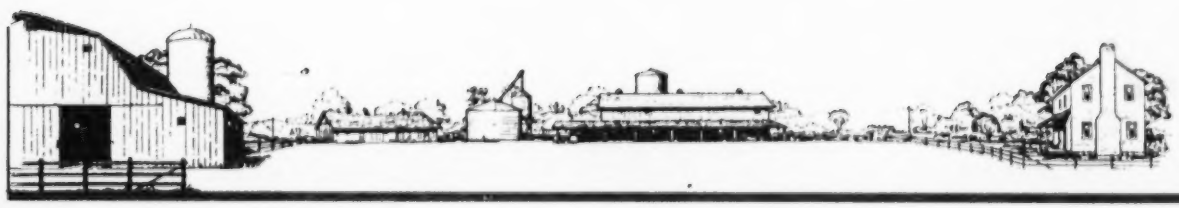
Providers by Region

Region 2	Director
Aurora East School District	Dr. Anna Sanford
Black Hawk College	Dr. Mary Alice Stewart
College of Dupage	Ms. Joanna Escobar
Elgin Community College	Mr. Scott Ebaugh
Elgin School District U-46	Ms. Ellie MacKinney
Elgin YWCA	Ms. Susan Rickabaugh
Fox Valley LVA	Ms. Peg Coker
Highland Community College	Ms. Sandra Feaver
Illinois Migrant Council	Ms. Cynthia Thomas
Illinois Valley Community College	Ms. Patricia Rose
Joliet Junior College	Dr. Terry R. Irby
Joliet Township High School	Mr. John Kilday
Kishwaukee College	Ms. Evelina Jose Cichy
Lyons Township Adult & Continuing Education Center	Mr. Larry L. Bond
McHenry County College	Dr. Douglas S. Van Nostran
Rock Valley College	Ms. Diana Barthelman
Rockford Area Literacy Council	Ms. Connie Frazier
Rockford Public Schools	Mr. Peter Paris
Sauk Valley Community College	Mr. Mike Seguin
Sterling/Rock Falls Adult Education	Mr. Phil Leinbach
Waubonsee Community College	Ms. Susan Nespechal
West Chicago Community High School	Mr. Donald K. Zabelin
World Relief Refugee Services	Ms. Marilyn Sweeny

Region 3	Director
Edwardsville Alternative High School District #7	Ms. Yvonne Mossman
Carl Sandburg College	Ms. Cathy M. White
Danville Area Community College	Mr. Tom Szott
Decatur School District	Mr. Steve Poznic
Heartland Community College	Ms. Valerie Roberson
Ilinois Central College	Ms. Kay Sutton
Jersey/Calhoun/Greene Counties ESR	Honorable James M. Frazier
John Wood Community College	Ms. Geraldine Carter
Kankakee Community College	Mr. Richard Frey
Kankakee School District	Ms. Carolyn Butler
Lewis and Clark Community College	Mr. Michael Agone
Lincoln Community High School	Ms. Cindy Olmstead
Lincoln Land Community College	Mrs. Rosalind Bruce
Macon County ESR	Ms. Nanci Day
Macoupin County ESR Alternative School	Ms. Barbara Heyen
Parkland College	Ms. Janet Scogins
Pass/Adult Education Monmouth-Warren ESR	Mr. Roger Birkhead
Peoria Adult Education School District	Honorable Gerald M. Brookhart
Peoria County ESR	Honorable Gerald M. Brookhart
Quincy Public Schools	Mr. Ron Baugher
Richland Community College	Ms. Janet Lutovsky
Springfield School District #186	Mr. Robert Leming
Spoon River College	Ms. Karen Poncin
Urbana School District #116	Mr. John Muirhead

Providers by Region

Region 4	Director
Belleville Area College #522	Dr. Martha Giordano
Carbondale Community High School District #165	Ms. June Hickey
Chester Mental Health Center	Dr. Stephen F. Miller, Ph.D.
Choate Mental Health Center & Developmental Center	Ms. Carol Shepard
Collinsville Unit High School #10	Mr. Ronald R. Ganschinietz
Department of Corrections School District	Mr. Robert A. Kinser
East St. Louis Alternative High School #189	Ms. Barbara Conrad
Five County Regional Adult Education Center ESR	Ms. Andrea Brown
Illinois Eastern Community College/Frontier	Mr. Richard L. Mason
Jackson/Perry ESR	Mr. John Hawkins
John A. Logan #530	Mr. Philip Minnis
Kaskaskia College #501	Ms. Ruth A. Barczewski
Lake Land College #517	Ms. Becky L. Dorgan
Marion County Public Housing	Mr. Lawrence Williams
Mattoon Area Adult Education Center #2	Mr. H. A. Sherline
McLean/DeWitt ESR	Ms. Joyce Fritsch
Monroe/Randolph ESR	Honorable Faye J. Hughes
Murphysboro Commuity Unit School District #186	Mr. Dennis Brock
Pana Community Unit School District #8	Mr. Don Kroski
Rend Lake College #521	Ms. Barbara Bauernfeind
Shawnee Community College #531	Mr. Tim Bellamey
Southern Illinois University - EDC (Carbondale)	Dr. Lynette C. Wolff
Southeastern Illinois College #533	Dr. Richard D. Hagan
St. Clair County ESR	Ms. Pat Hunsaker
State Community College of East St. Louis #600	Ms. Marilyn Jones
Venice Community School Unit #3	Mr. Louis Williams



Number of Students and Units of Instruction

In FY95, ISBE funded 105 administrative agencies for the provision of adult education and literacy. These providers served 114,230 students at over 600 sites. Total units of instruction for FY95 were 830,386.

Instruction	Units
ABE	383,540
ESL	276,714
H.S. Credit	43,784
GED Review	97,348
Vocational	29,000

Student Demographics

Ethnicity	%*	Sex	16-20	21-24	25-44	45-59	60+	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	M	296	399	1,335	435	330	2,795
	4%	F	322	498	2,817	892	448	4,977
Native American	0%	M	60	39	97	15	5	216
	0%	F	47	24	128	16	5	220
Black	11%	M	3,597	2,567	5,442	715	191	12,512
	10%	F	3,428	1,977	5,277	886	226	11,794
Hispanic	19%	M	5,090	5,626	9,740	1,114	228	21,798
	18%	F	3,831	3,941	10,629	1,654	304	20,359
White	14%	M	4,986	1,979	5,787	1,772	1,145	15,669
	21%	F	5,131	2,962	10,678	3,311	1,808	23,890
Gender Totals	46%	M	14,029	10,610	22,401	4,051	1,899	52,990
	54%	F	12,759	9,402	29,529	6,759	2,791	61,240
Column Totals	100%	All	26,788	20,012	51,930	10,810	4,690	114,230

* Figures greater than 1% are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Issues and Recommendations

FUNDING

Issues: Two interrelated funding issues are of primary importance to the adult education and literacy community: funding adequacy and the equitable distribution of existing funds. It is difficult to achieve an equitable distribution without addressing the adequacy issue.

Recommendations: Develop a partnership with state-level stakeholders to craft legislation that will provide a stable and equitable base of funding for providers based on performance and include incentives to encourage quality service delivery.

ACCESS

Issue: In 1993, community-based organizations (CBOs) were permitted by federal law to apply for federal adult education and literacy funds. Current Illinois statute precludes CBOs from receiving state adult education and literacy funds.

Recommendation: ISBE and interested provider groups should review the existing state statute with the goal of providing all qualified providers with access to state resources to.

TECHNOLOGY

Issue: The number of adults requiring service is too great and existing resources too small to attempt to reach everyone through traditional classroom instruction. Technology offers the potential for reaching new and underserved groups of adults, delivering effective instruction, and streamlining program management and communications systems. There is an urgent need for interactive software that encourages critical thinking and allows for group learning.

Recommendation: Foster partnerships to develop technology resources, training and professional development activities, delivery strategies, and evaluation activities.

SYSTEM BUILDING

Issue: Adult education and literacy must be viewed as critical elements in the Illinois employment and training agenda and the State's Education-to-Careers initiative. Adult educators are knowledgeable about working with "at risk" clients, drawing on the learner's diverse learning styles and needs, providing training in nontraditional environments, and using instructional materials that are relevant to adults entering or re-entering the workforce.

Recommendation: Make education professionals and policy makers an integral part of Illinois' strategic planning and implementation efforts to assure the integrity of adult education and literacy under the proposed federal block grants.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Michael W. Skarr
Chairperson

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State Superintendent

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